

What is claimed is:

1. A hardcopy device comprising at least one printhead mounted on a printhead carriage, said carriage being arranged to move in a printhead scanning direction along a scanning axis, a printhead service station arranged at an end of said printhead scanning axis and comprising a movable service station carriage having a plurality of servicing modules arranged to undertake servicing operations on said printhead, and a moving device, said moving device being arranged to move the service station carriage transversely of said scanning axis, wherein at least one 10 of the servicing modules is connected by a detachable connection to at least one other servicing module.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the moving device is arranged to move said service station carriage in a straight line extending perpendicularly to said 15 scanning axis.
3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the moving device is arranged to rotate said service station carriage around an axis extending parallel to said scanning axis.
- 20 4. A device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one service station carriage is mounted on a guidance system and said at least one other servicing module is mounted on a separate carriage mounted on the same guidance system.
- 25 5. A device according to claim 1, wherein said detachable connection comprises a first hook element rotatably connected to a first said servicing module and a second hook element fixedly attached to a second said servicing module.
- 30 6. A device according to claim 1 wherein said detachable connection is attached by means of a first movement of said service station carriage and is detached by a second movement of said service station carriage.

7. A device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one servicing module includes at least one of the group comprising a printhead capping module, a spittoon module and a black printhead wiping module.

5

8. A device according to claim 1 wherein said at least one other servicing module serves to wipe colour pens.

9. A device according to claim 1 wherein said at least one other servicing module 10 serves to apply a cleaning and/or lubricating liquid.

10. A hardcopy device comprising one or more printheads and means for moving said printheads in a scanning direction along a scanning axis, and means for servicing said printheads, said servicing means including a first servicing means movable to a position for undertaking a first servicing operation and a second servicing means attachable to said first servicing means and movable to a position for 15 undertaking a second servicing operation.

11. A service station for a hardcopy device, said service station being arranged to be 20 mounted on said hardcopy device for relative movement thereto, and said service station comprising a plurality of servicing modules, at least one of the modules being detachably connected to the other servicing modules.

12. A method of servicing printheads of hardcopy devices comprising the steps of: 25 moving the printheads into a servicing position, and, for at least a first servicing operation, bringing a first servicing module into alignment with the printheads to undertake the first servicing operation, and, for at least a second servicing operation, attaching said first servicing module to a second servicing module and moving it to a position in which at least the second servicing module is in 30 alignment with the printheads to undertake the second servicing operation.

13. A method of servicing printheads of hardcopy devices comprising the steps of:
moving the printheads in the printhead scanning direction into a servicing position, and, for at least a first servicing operation, moving a service station transversely of the scanning direction to bring a first servicing module into alignment with the printheads to undertake the first servicing operation, and, for at least a second servicing operation, moving the service station to a position in which it is attached to a second servicing module and then to a position in which at least the second servicing module is in alignment with the printheads to undertake the second servicing operation.
5